

### REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 23, 2003 (Paper No. 6). Claims 1 to 13 are currently in the application, of which Claims 1, 10 and 13 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,978,563 (Kawamoto). Applicants have considered the Examiner's comments together with the applied reference and respectfully submit that the claims herein are patentably distinguishable over the applied reference for at least the following reasons.

Independent Claims 1, 10 and 13 concern image processing in which a plurality of rendering sections render respective color component images on the basis of data common to respective color components. According to the invention, each of the plurality of rendering sections receives the common data and renders the common data into one of the color component images. The rendered color component images are then converted into color component images for printing in synchronism with operation of a printer engine.

The applied reference is not understood to disclose the foregoing features of the present invention. In particular, Kawamoto is not understood to disclose at least the feature of each of a plurality of rendering sections receiving common data and rendering the common data into respective color component images.

Kawamoto concerns a print processing system that is capable of outputting color images using multiple raster graphics processing sections. The Office Action

contended that the raster graphics processing sections described in Kawamoto correspond with the rendering sections of the present invention. Even if this comparison between Kawamoto and the present invention was correct, which Applicants do not concede, the data processed by the raster graphics processing sections in Kawamoto is understood to differ from that processed by the rendering sections of the present invention.

As described in column 8, lines 40 to 61, of Kawamoto, print information received from a client computer is divided into a plurality of partial print information items, which are then distributed to raster graphics processing sections to be processed. However, Kawamoto is not understood to disclose that common print information is sent to these raster graphics processing sections. Rather, the partial print information items in Kawamoto are understood to differ from each other with different partial print information items being distributed to different raster graphics processing sections. Therefore, Kawamoto is not understood to disclose at least the feature of each of a plurality of rendering sections receiving common data and rendering the common data into respective color component images.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 10 and 13 are believed to be allowable over the applied reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection of Claims 1, 10 and 13 are respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and therefore are believed to be allowable over the applied reference for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define

an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California, office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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